

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during October 2006

October was mostly cool and dry across California. During October, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index had 0.5" of precipitation, which is 17% of average for the month, 17% of the seasonal average to date, and 1% of average Water Year (50.0"). On October 31, California statewide hydrologic conditions for Water Year 2007 (October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007) were as follows: precipitation, 35% of average to date; runoff, 85% of average to date; and reservoir storage, 125% of average for the date.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 10/31/2006 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2005 - 2006 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2006 - 2007
Eureka	0.71	19	2.60	69	1
Redding	0.26	9	0.40	14	0
Sacramento	0.21	14	0.26	18	1
San Jose	0.34	28	0.11	9	2
Fresno	0.08	9	0.09	10	0
Bakersfield	0.29	55	0.26	49	4
Los Angeles	0.34	41	1.64	198	2
San Diego	0.81	105	0.57	74	7

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 10/31/2006 midnight								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,758	1,626	108	2,448	72	---	690
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,119	2,793	112	4,552	69	-772	1,433
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,760	2,240	123	3,538	78	-403	778
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	669	531	126	966	69	-127	297
Folsom Lake	American	538	502	107	977	55	-186	439
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,988	1,277	156	2,420	82	18	432
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,612	1,287	125	2,030	79	-78	418
Lake McClure	Merced	655	449	146	1,025	64	-20	370
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	241	181	133	520	46	-194	279
Pine Flat Res	Kings	410	365	112	1,000	41	-419	590
Isabella	Kern	231	154	150	568	41	61	337
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,461	1,147	127	2,039	72	---	578

The latest National Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center long-range weather forecast maps for November, issued October 31, suggests above average precipitation for Northern California and much of the Pacific Northwest. Average precipitation is forecast for the rest of California and the Southwest. Temperatures are forecast to be average for all of California and the American West.

On October 19, the Climate Prediction Center released its Winter Outlook (December, January, and February seasonal forecast) for the United States. This outlook forecasts temperatures to be warmer than the 30-year norm (1971-2000) over much of the nation, yet cooler than last year's very warm winter season. Northern and Southern California are expected to have above average temperatures, and Central California is expected to have average temperatures. The precipitation outlook calls for wetter than average conditions for central and southern California, and for the American Southwest. Northern California is expected to have average precipitation.

The pattern of the Winter Outlook is influenced by the development of weak El Niño conditions (warmer than average sea-surface temperatures) that have developed across the tropical Pacific during the past few months. Current conditions suggest that El Niño conditions may strengthen during the next few months. El Niño events influence the position and strength of the jet stream over the Pacific Ocean, which in turn affects the winter precipitation and temperature patterns across the United States and other locations in the world.